

Pennsylvania Humanities

Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council

Winter 2011

THE CIVIL WAR: A 150th Anniversary Commemoration



In 2011, Pennsylvania begins the state-wide commemoration of the Civil War 150 anniversary. PHC will partner with libraries, historical and tourism organizations and the media to engage audiences in discussion about war, race and democracy. The types of programs offered run the gamut from book discussions of historical fiction to lectures on Civil War-era history to *Humanities on the Road* TV episodes on the Civil War experience.

PHC believes relating the past to contemporary concerns is an essential ingredient in humanities discussion that keeps the public coming back for more. Good humanities discussions are about showing the public that history isn't just about war, battles and dates. The stories that have the most impact are those about the human side of the events. Joseph Kelly, Executive Director for PHC, asserts that by participating in the Civil War 150 dialogue, "We are exploring current issues — race, a divided nation — informed by the history of the Civil War and the Civil Rights Movement. PHC is asking the big questions that resonate today, in a time of recession and war, such as 'Who is my neighbor?' By engaging diverse participants, we hope to seek common ground, the 'more perfect union' we strive for as Americans."

Of note: this Civil War anniversary is committed to acknowledging the African American experience, a perspective virtually absent in the 100th anniversary. This draws upon noteworthy scholarship on slavery, race and the fight for equality. "It's important this time around," says Joseph Kelly, "to tell stories of people fighting for freedom because it relates to issues of equality and democracy — the very foundation of our country."

Beginning in 2011, audiences can participate in a number of programs on the Civil War story including Facts in Fiction: the Civil War Era (a packaged book discussion program), Live & Learn Weekends, *Humanities on the Road* tapings and the Civil War 150 Road Show touring exhibition.



You can find a Civil War program in your area by viewing PHC's calendar of events at www.pahumanities.org or visiting www.pacivilwar150.org.

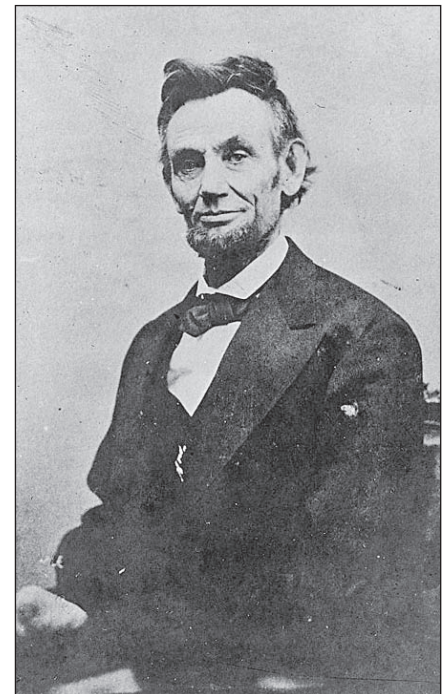


Photo: Library of Congress



Photo: Donald Scott

Above: Lithograph by P.S. Duval & Son, based on a photo of the 25th US Colored Troops. From *Saluting Camp William Penn*, a *Humanities on the Road* presentation. Left: From a Live & Learn Weekend event at Mother Bethel Church in Philadelphia.

PHC Invests in New Audiences for the Humanities

“PHC can play an important role in helping young people develop an awareness of how the humanities reach every corner of our lives. Working with them is our opportunity to deliver civility and culture to the world they will create.”

— Mary Garm, Administrator of the Lackawanna County Library System and PHC Board Member on the importance of Teen Reading Lounge

In 2011, PHC pilots Teen Reading Lounge (TRL) in six public libraries across the state. This comes after a year of program research and development with advisors and experts in teen programming, education and library services.

Crafted for tweens and teens ages 12-18, TRL focuses on fantasy fiction and graphic novels — two genres of growing interest to young adults. Through discussion and interactive workshops, TRL is designed to promote the joy of reading outside of the classroom and to give teens an opportunity to discuss big ideas important to their lives.

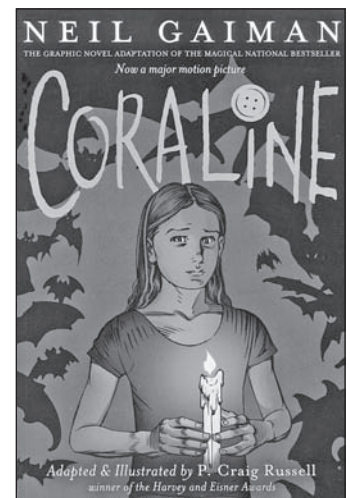
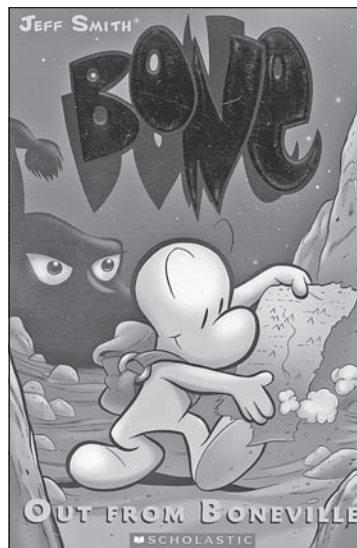
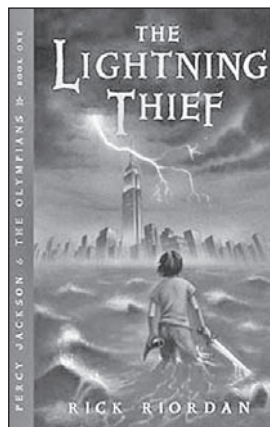
This is the first time PHC has created humanities programming exclusively for younger audiences. With this pilot, PHC hopes to increase the capacity of librarians to conduct public humanities programming for teen audiences and to introduce teen audiences to the value of the arts and humanities.

PHC spoke with two librarians participating in the pilot: **Penny Talbert**, Executive Director of Ephrata Public Library and **Kelly Rottmund**, Young Adult Librarian at Sewickley Public Library of the Quaker Valley School District. The two libraries have been serving teens for a combined total of 17 years.

What attracted you to teen services?

PT: When I first started working at the library, my director sent me to a workshop by Patrick Jones (YA author and former teen librarian). As soon as I got back to my library, I started making changes. I moved the YA section to the front of the library and put together a teen advisory council. I started visiting the schools and found that there was a great need for teen activities outside the school. I love working with teens because I feel like I can really make a difference. I wish I had that when I was growing up. Being a teenager is tough — and if I can guide them in the right direction now, they will be library users for life!

KR: I was attracted to teen services because teens have a unique view of the world and I wanted to hear, see and share that perspective. Also, I enjoy teen fiction much more than adult fiction!



Why is it important for libraries to invest in teen services?

PT: Teens need to have role models in their community. They need a safe place to get together and hang out with their friends. And they need a place that fosters their interest in literature. The library is, in my opinion, the only place that offers all three of these things. And let's not forget — teens are teens for a short time. After that, they become voters. The support we foster in them now will pay off in the future when they are at the polls.

KR: So often I have heard from teens that the community doesn't care about them or their interests. They feel invisible to the adults they encounter every day. Teen services are a way to engage teens and make them feel welcome and valued, not only in the library but also in the community. Teen programs provide a place for teens from different social circles but who have a shared interest to come together and interact.

What kind of programming does your library offer teens?

PT: We have programs for teens and give them a place to hang out. We also offer mentoring for their graduation projects and community service. In addition, we spend time on their turf — in the schools. I visit and do book talks at least twice a year and visit right before the end of school for summer reading. We are lucky to have a great relationship with our school librarians. We work together on grants, author visits and offering teens a variety of opportunities in school and the public library. Of course, our library is known for duct taping teens to the wall for a living art exhibit to bring attention to a county referendum several years ago! We were named Most Valuable Program that year by VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates Magazine). That was a great way for us to get recognition from our peers but, frankly, the teens never cared. They just want to be a part of the library.

KR: Some of our programs occur weekly (e.g., Anime Club), while others take place only once a month (e.g., Teen Book Club, Teen Movies, Dungeons & Dragons). We do a lot of craft-based programs (e.g., DIY Disco Balls and Paint Chip Wallets) and usually host one food-themed program per month. We have done Cook the Books where we make a food item found in a teen book, Cupcake Decorating and Cheese-alicious Night. Teens also volunteer in the Children and Teen Departments.

What advice you can offer libraries that are new to serving teens?

PT: Starting a teen program is a slow process, and it can be very disappointing if you are hoping for throngs of teenagers at the doors. My advice would be to target your efforts at 8th and 9th graders so you can cultivate the relationship for several years. There is no right or wrong kind of program — you have to look at your community. What works for me may be a disaster somewhere else. I'd also suggest getting social media accounts and using them daily. And finally, be transparent. Be yourself, and they'll appreciate it!

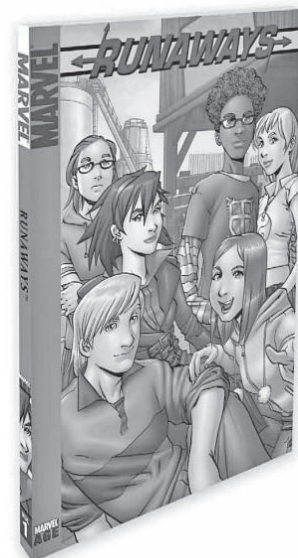
KR: Teen advisory groups and surveys are very important when getting started! Just because a program sounds cool and was successful at another library doesn't mean the teens in your area will be interested. Don't be discouraged or give up too quickly. It takes a long time to build relationships with teens. Also, teens are ridiculously busy. Make sure you know what other afterschool activities are happening in your area and plan around them. Eventually, when the teens trust you and feel like the library has something to offer them, they will spread the word. They are your best advertisers!



Do you know a teen who would enjoy the TRL program? Contact one of the six participating libraries to see how s/he can get involved.

- Ephrata Public Library (Lancaster County)
- Grove City Community Library (Mercer County)
- Haverford Township Free Library (Delaware County)
- Hazleton Area Public Library (Luzerne County)
- Plum Borough Community Library (Allegheny County)
- Sewickley Public Library (Allegheny County)

For more information on TRL, contact Jennifer Danifo at jdanifo@pahumanities.org.



A New Season of *Humanities on the Road* Begins

“I want people to come away, as I have, saying, ‘Wow, I learned something.’ Something about another culture. Something about a topic they knew nothing about. I hope that people come away with a greater appreciation for the humanities which I see as a perfect marriage between academics and the arts. That it opens people’s eyes to what PHC does and just inspires people to want to learn and explore what the humanities has to offer.”

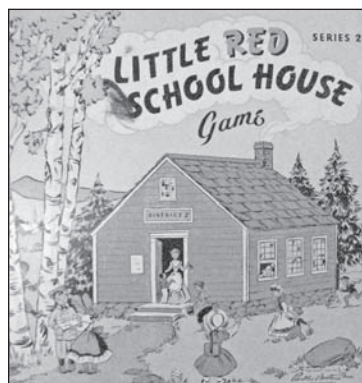
— Tracey Matisak, Host of *Humanities on the Road*, on Season One



Tracey Matisak

With renewed energy, powerful stories and a GPS in-hand, *Humanities on the Road* once again crisscrosses the state to shine a spotlight on some of Pennsylvania’s most accomplished artists, scholars and storytellers. Each episode is filmed in front of a live audience.

Join PHC and PCN-TV for a taping in your region. Be part of the audience Q&A by asking a question or telling your story. See yourself on TV when the episode broadcasts on Pennsylvania Cable Network in the fall. Then, blog about your experience.



Left to right: *The Little Red Schoolhouse* explores an American icon. DeBence Antique Music World to host *Celebrate PA in Story and Song!*

Humanities on the Road is an arts and culture television show featuring award-winning broadcast journalist Tracey Matisak, as well as talent from PHC’s speakers bureau. The series is available to 3.3 million households across Pennsylvania. It is broadcast by PCN-TV, the Commonwealth’s version of C-SPAN, which offers unedited live and same-day coverage of Pennsylvania Senate and House floor proceedings, committee hearings, press conferences, speeches and other public forums.

2011 Taping Line-Up

Healing African Dance

Taping Date: Friday, April 1, 6pm
Presenter: Choreographer Angela Watson
Host: Danzante Community Arts Center in Harrisburg (Dauphin County)

Blacks and Jews on Stage and Screen

Taping Date: Thursday, April 14, 7pm
Presenter: Dramaturg Warren Hoffman
Host: Temple Sholom in Broomall (Delaware County)

Rachel Carson and Nature's Treasures

Taping Date: Tuesday, April 26, 6pm
Presenter: Museum Educator Vivienne Shaffer
Host: The Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia (Philadelphia County)

The Little Red Schoolhouse

Taping Date: Saturday, April 30, 11am
Presenter: Historian Jonathan Zimmerman
Host: Ezra Lehman Memorial Library at Shippensburg University (Cumberland County)

May I Have the Pleasure of This Dance?

Taping Date: Thursday, May 5, 6pm
Presenter: Dance Historians Nancy Walker and Jef Savage
Host: Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple (Lackawanna County)

"I have watched every program for the past three weeks, and I learn something new every time I watch this series. I had no idea George Washington owned slaves. Thanks PHC."

— Blog Comment

Dvorak's New World

Taping Date: Thursday, May 12, 6pm
Presenter: Conductor and Composer Karl Middleman
Host: Mishler Theatre at the Blair County Arts Foundation in Altoona (Blair County)

Celebrate Pennsylvania in Story and Song!

Taping Date: Saturday, May 21, 1:30pm
Presenter: Performer Paula Purnell
Host: DeBence Antique Music World in Franklin (Venango County)

Steeltowns, Coalfields and the Unbroken Circle

Taping Date: Saturday, June 4, 1pm
Presenter: Folk Artist Tom Breiding
Host: Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area in Homestead (Allegheny County)



Tom Breiding

Deserter Country

Taping Date: Wednesday, June 22, 5:30pm
Presenter: Historian Robert Sandow
Host: The Union League of Philadelphia (Philadelphia County)

Lincoln and the Widow Bixby

Taping Date: Saturday, June 25, 2pm
Presenter: Historian Judith Giesberg
Host: Friends of Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia (Philadelphia County)

Rosanna of the Amish

Taping Date: Saturday, July 9, 3pm
Presenter: Poet and Writer Julia Kasdorf
Host: Huntington County Arts Council in Huntington (Huntington County)

Saluting Camp William Penn

Taping Date: Wednesday, July 13, 6:30pm
Presenter: Journalist Donald Scott
Host: National Archives in Philadelphia (Philadelphia County)



Rob McCarney, PHC crew



To attend a taping, contact the taping host for details. For more information including full descriptions of each episode, visit www.humanitiesontheroad.org or e-mail humanitiesontheroad.org.

GIVING TO PHC

Photo: Joan May Cordova



When you donate to PHC, you invest in the artists, scholars, cultural organizations and institutions that work hard to share their knowledge of the humanities — whether it's through telling a fascinating story, educating us about diverse ethnic cultures or connecting with teens through fantasy fiction. You help our arts and culture network who have limited resources, but who remain passionate about bringing creative vehicles of learning and engagement to communities across the Commonwealth.

Never before has our organization been more personally connected to individuals. Individuals share their personal stories with us all:

- On television (watch *Humanities on the Road* clips on YouTube)
- On our blog (www.humanitiesontheroad.org)
- On Facebook
- Through PHC's e-news
- Enthusiastically in-person (check out upcoming events in your area by visiting www.pahumanities.org/events)

Individual contributions are so very important to us. Please help PHC move forward by supporting our programs and our vision and most importantly, by engaging with us. Make a gift today, and through us invest in your local arts and culture resources.

Visit www.pahumanities.org/support to make a gift on-line or use the donation envelope in this newsletter to make a gift by mail. Contact Development Officer Katrina Smith at (215) 925-1005 ext. 116 or at ksmith@pahumanities.org with questions or comments.

No gift is too small to make a difference!



Photo: Jack Ramsdale

Clockwise: From a Philadelphia Folklore Project grant using folk arts to create a sense of place. From a Mural Arts Program grant interpreting area collections. Based in Erie, traditional dance troupe Mandaleo is featured in *African Song and Dance: Celebrating Everyone Everyday*, a Commonwealth Speaker presentation. A screen shot of PHC's new blog.

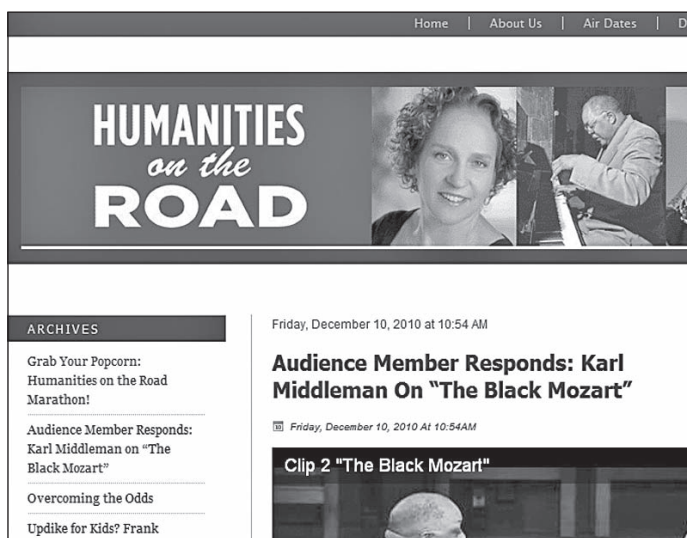


Photo: Kelly Armor

INSIDE THE PENNSYLVANIA HUMANITIES COUNCIL



Karen Davis



Christine Mueseler



Paul Gluck

At the end of 2010, PHC bade farewell to two board members: Terrence Murphy, of K & L Gates, and Ralph Pearson, Provost of Duquesne University. Terry was integral in securing support from Columbia Gas for the Commonwealth Speakers program. Ralph held a variety of positions within PHC, including serving as Board Chair for two years. PHC greatly appreciates the contributions of both individuals.

New Board Members

Karen Davis is the CEO of the Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia. Karen was appointed by Philadelphia's mayor to work on the Philadelphia Art Commission and also was a founding member of the Philadelphia Cultural Fund.

Paul Gluck, Associate Professor of Broadcasting, Telecommunications and Mass Media at Temple University in Philadelphia, has over thirty years of experience producing multi-media content. He formerly worked as the station manager for the public TV station WHYY.

Christine Mueseler has worked in higher education for over twenty years. Christine currently holds the position of Vice President of Institutional Advancement for Seton Hill University.

Call for New Board Members

PHC now is seeking applicants for board membership beginning in November 2011. For information about roles, responsibilities and the application process, contact Joseph Kelly at jkelly@pahumanities.org. We need individuals committed to our mission and ready to raise awareness of the value of the humanities to individuals and local communities; to strengthen and develop relationships across a wide range of diverse groups; and to add expertise in communications, fundraising and technology. Application deadline: May 1.

New Staff Addition

Joining PHC staff last October is Administrative Associate Celeste Vargo. Celeste has an extensive background in office organization after having a successful career as a law firm administrator. In addition to her work at PHC, Celeste also volunteers at Art-Reach, a non-profit organization dedicated to making the arts accessible to underserved audiences.

PHC BOARD MEMBERS

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Janice R. Black, Harrisburg
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R. Mimi Iijima, Senior Program Officer
Kelly McNamara, *Humanities on the Road*
Celeste Vargo, Program Administration

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Amanda Jaskowak, Information Systems & Development
Pam Shropshire, Communications & Programs
Katrina Smith, Development

Pennsylvania Humanities

Pam Shropshire, Editor
Cloud Weber Design, Graphic Design

The Pennsylvania Humanities Council, a nonprofit organization, inspires individuals to enjoy and share a life of learning enriched by human experience across time and around the world. Through programs and partnerships, PHC fosters the sharing of stories and ideas—to increase understanding and a large vision of human life, community and possibility.



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Council**

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Pennsylvania Humanities Council is the Commonwealth's only statewide organization dedicated to the humanities. Hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians are engaged by our book discussions, speakers bureau, arts and culture TV show with PCN-TV, grant funded projects and other public programs.



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